EQUAL RIGHTS

"MEN AND WOMEN SHALL HAVE EQUAL RIGHTS THROUGHOUT THE
UNITED STATES AND EVERY PLACE SUBJECT TO ITS JURISDICTION"
Amendment to the United States Constitution now before Congress

NATIONAL WOMAN'S PARTY, *Washington*, D. C.

Vol. 27, No. 2 FEBRUARY, 1941

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Convention Gleanings

THERE are few things more stimulating than contact with people who are trying by some means to raise the whole level of human life. A convention of the National Woman's Party carries with it this particular stimulus; for everyone present, in trying to improve the position of women, is also working for human progress all along the line.

Our task is heavy, and we must not only bring to it all our strength, but we must also enlist the aid of everyone who can and will help us. We should seek the aid of our men friends. Throughout the history of the women's movement certain great men have been our staunchest helpers. John Stuart Mill's book "The Subjection of Women" and Thomas Wentworth Higginson's brilliant satire, "Should Women Learn the Alphabet?" which reduces to absurdity the whole position against the development of women, are only two examples of many which might be cited to show how wholeheartedly certain men have done battle on our side. These men, as someone said, are "natural equalitarians."

Fortunately for our cause, natural equalitarians are not rare. There are a good many of them, both men and women to whom it never occurs that one human being is less important than another. To them equality is a fundamental premise. We may not all be equally successful, we may not all be equally famous, but in the fabric of humanity there is a place and a need for every stitch. Fortunately there are a great many people who know that, without having to have anybody teach them; and those are the people who are of particular value to us.

It was said at this convention that the whole movement for the betterment of the position of women is part of a moral revival and not wholly a question of economics. I agree with that with all my heart. There isn't any reason for wanting to better anybody's position except the moral reason. If you don't have the humanitarian attitude your obvious logical attitude will be to let the people who have the advantages keep them if they can, and let those who do not have them get them if they can; in other words, we reduce human society to a dog-fight. The moral attitude is the primary one, but the economic one is necessary, too, and the emphasis placed upon the position of women in the trades and professions and occupations shows that. It is both economic and moral, and to the greatest social advantage to give every human being an opportunity to function at his best.

We ought to do more studying in economic theory, because we have a particular economic fallacy repeated to us; whenever we speak about the necessity for improving the position of women professionally, they say, "But you see, you are earning the money that the head of some family ought to be earning." This economic fallacy, which is known as the wages fund theory, is the assumption that there is a definite limit to the number of jobs, that there are just so many positions in the world, all labeled, all numbered and that if you get one of those, somebody else who needs it worse won't get it. Of course, that is absolute nonsense. Every one of us, especially when the arts and sciences have reached their present stage of development, can earn more than a living in productive ways; and by the exchange of what you do and what I do and what John Jones does and what Jennie Jones does, we all have a higher standard of living. The idea that every worker creates wealth has to take the place of the old economic fallacy of the wages fund and we must work in economic theory until all writers of textbooks include the newer and truer conception—as in fact most do now. If the wages fund is ever mentioned say a few words against it; even people who don't know its name use that theory to try to tell women that they should go home and stay there.

Of course, much of the mistaken economic theory is really a thin camouflage for dislike and distrust of women. You remember Mark Twain's lies of three degrees—lies, damned lies and statistics. The people who think that women should go home put them into similar grades; women, married women, and mothers. All of you must have met the prejudice against women, and those who happen to belong in all three of those grades must have met it pretty frequently.

We are constantly asked why we want this Amendment. Do we really think, people say with an air of pity for our simplicity, that writing it into the Constitution that men and women shall be equal will guarantee us immediate equal treatment? Of course, we do not. We are not such idiots as to suppose that all the clauses in the Constitution are self-defined and self-enforcing. We know that a clause like due process of law didn't define itself. The Administration, Congress, and the courts have been at work ever since the Fifth Amendment was adopted (and that was shortly after the adoption of the Constitution) defining due process of law, and they haven't a complete definition yet; but in spite of that, people have been protected from having their lives, liberty and property taken without due process of law. Even though we have to fight out point by point what equality means, the very fact of getting it into the Constitution will be tremendous protection against the obvious inequalities, and we have the whole future to have the thing refined and all the lesser inequalities ironed out. Don't let people make you think, when they truthfully say that it will not give you equality at once, that it isn't worth trying for. It is worth all the effort we can put into it; all the energy of body, mind and spirit that we can summon to our great cause.

MIRIAM E. OATMAN, Ph. D.

(EDITOR'S NOTE—Dr. Miriam E. Oatman is a political scientist who has been connected with Brookings Institution and with the American University Graduate School and is now with the State Law Index. For about twenty-five years Dr. Oatman has been doing research and writing in government, economics, and public law. She is the joint author of many books in these fields, and is a frequent contributor to professional periodicals.)

Equal Rights

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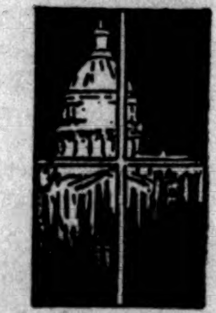

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NATIONAL WOMAN'S PARTY

OBJECT

To secure for women complete equality with men under the law and in all human relationships—in particular to secure the adoption of the Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution, and the adherence of the United States to the Equal Rights Treaty. The Woman's Party also supports the proposed Equality Amendments to the Covenant of the League of Nations.

THE PROPOSED EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

"Art. 1—Men and women shall have Equal Rights throughout the United States and every place subject to its jurisdiction.

"Art. 2.—Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation."

Introduced

Senate—By Senator Guy M. Gillette (Iowa), and Senators W. J. Bulow (S. D.), Arthur Capper (Kans.), Gerald P. Nye (N. D.), Millard E. Tydings (Md.), Geo. L. Radcliffe (Md.), Jan. 6, 1939, (Senate Joint Resolution No. 8).

House—By Representative Louis Ludlow, (Ind.), Jan. 3, 1941, (House Joint Resolution No. 2).

By Representative U. S. Guyer, (Kans.), Jan. 3, 1941, (House Joint Resolution No. 16).

By Representative Bartel J. Jonkman, Jan. 3, 1941, (House Joint Resolution No. 93).

Present Status

Senate—Before Judiciary Committee.

House—Before Judiciary Committee.

THE EQUAL RIGHTS TREATY

"Art. 1—The contracting States agree that upon the ratification of this Treaty men and women shall have Equal Rights throughout the territory subject to their respective jurisdictions."

Signed

By Cuba, Ecuador, Paraguay, and Uruguay, at Montevideo, December, 1933.

PROPOSED EQUALITY AMENDMENTS TO COVENANT OF LEAGUE OF NATIONS

"The members of the League undertake that in their respective countries the right to vote shall not be denied or abridged on the ground of sex."

The members of the League undertake that in their respective countries there shall be no distinction based on sex in their law and practice regarding nationality."

"The members of the League undertake that in their respective countries men and women shall have equal rights in all other fields."

"The members of the League undertake that there shall be both men and women, with full voting powers, in all delegations to the Council and Assembly of the League and to all Conferences under the auspices of the League."

Present Status

Before the League of Nations Committee on Status of Women.

The Equal Rights Amendment

"I have given a great deal of thought to this matter, and I am firmly of the opinion that the amendment should be endorsed. In the first place, the words of the Amendment are entirely consistent with the language of the Federal Constitution. In my judgment the words 'Equal Rights' do not require exact definition. In fact, I think it would be harmful to the cause of freedom to restrict the extent of the term by any rigid definition. In the next place, I am sure that no confusion would follow the adoption of this Amendment. At the present time, under many statutes people of this country do not receive equality before the law. The adoption of this Amendment would go far to correct this evil."

GEORGE GORDON BATTLE.

Eminent New York lawyer of the firm of Battle, Levy, Fowler and Neaman, Mr. Battle used the eloquent argument quoted above for the insertion of a plank in the Democratic Platform, last July in Chicago, favoring submission of the Equal Rights amendment to the states for ratification.

In 1938 in a nation-wide broadcast, Mr. Battle used the following memorable words: "If we are to guard against the influence of misleading propaganda we must never relax in our love and our striving for freedom of the mind and of the spirit as well as of the body. In that sense it has well been said that the cause of freedom is the cause of God."—("Vital Speeches," Nov. 15, 1938.)

EQUAL RIGHTS

Justice, Liberty, Peace

I am of the opinion that history records the vitally palpable fact, that men alone have made a complete failure of the art, science and administration of government, through justice and law; because they have failed in the primary purpose of government, which is to establish, preserve and perpetuate local, national and international Justice, Liberty and Peace.

In my judgment civic, social, political and economic Justice is the only possible foundation of civic, social, political and economic Liberty, which is in turn the only possible basis for civic, social, political and economic Peace, so that we must first and above all strive for the establishment of Justice, so as to assure Liberty, in order to secure Peace.

The solely man made governments, have completely failed to establish local, national and international Justice, Liberty and Peace, because they have been *unjust* to half of the human race, that is, to the women of the entire world.

Indeed, so long as half of mankind is deprived of the inherent natural right to Absolute Equality by an Act of Law, we shall have other *in-justices* and conflicts, revolutions and wars. Therefore, I maintain that Equal Rights for women are of the most vital importance for the preservation of Civilization, because womanhood will strive for the establishment, preservation and perpetuation of Universal Justice, Liberty and Peace.

VICTOR HUGO DURAS, *American Jurisconsult.*

* * *

Victor Hugo Duras, the American Jurisconsult of Geneva, Switzerland, has been a life long advocate of woman suffrage and equal rights for women, because he maintains that "what is just is always the most urgent, the most practical and the most expedient."

Mr. Duras is the author of the prophetic publication, "Universal Peace Through International Government," published in New York, 1908, and in Paris, 1910. He is now compiling "A History of the Peace Movement."

Mr. Duras has been of considerable assistance to Miss Paul in Geneva. He was about to retire to the Chateau de Duras, in France, to continue his literary work when the war broke out, and he decided to return to America.

Susan B. Anthony Day—February 15, 1941

HER IDEALISM

By ANNA E. HENDLEY

IT IS not detracting from the memory of the Father of His Country, or of the immortal Lincoln, to name Susan B. Anthony as one of the trinity of American liberators. She fought for recognition of women, it is true, but she battled also for the rights of mankind.

Susan B. Anthony with dauntless courage and indomitable will, with vision and practical leadership wrung from the forces of might for the members of her sex a place in our Constitution as a protective heritage of freedom and opportunity. In doing so she likewise bequeathed to womanhood a great responsibility. The final decision may ultimately rest in women's hands as to whether this civilization of ours will move to higher levels or plunge into the abyss of ruin. If the latter takes place humanity will have to start the long march upward all over again as it has apparently done countless times in history.

If the men and women of America live up to the spirit of Susan B. Anthony we need have no fear for the future of the Nation. The three celebrated patriots, whose birthdays we are commemorating this month were something more than mere emancipators. They constituted a great moral force and were veritable dynamos of spiritual energy. The driving power of their lives is felt and drawn upon even to this day, for this generation is using their recorded beliefs to strengthen our faith in certain fundamentals that form the basis of our national institutions. The voice of a seer was heard when our first President said: "No people is more bound to acknowledge the Invisible Hand that shapes the affairs of men than those of these United States."

Pioneers

We shall not travel by the road we make;
E're day by day the sound of many feet
Is heard upon the stone that now we break,
We shall be come to where the cross-roads meet.

For *us* the heat by day, the cold by night;
The inch-slow progress and the heavy load;
And death at last to close the long grim fight
With man and beast and stone; for them the road.

For them the shade of trees that now we plant;
The safe smooth journey and the final goal,
Yea, birthright in the land of covenant—
For us day labor, travail of the soul.

And yet, the road is ours as never theirs!
Is not one joy on us bestowed?
For us the Master-Joy, O Pioneers—
We shall not travel, but we make the road.

—*Unknown.*

CALIFORNIA SCHOOLS SET DAY TO HONOR MISS ANTHONY

THROUGH the efforts of the Susan B. Anthony Memorial Committee, Sue Brobst, Chairman, and Una R. Winter, Asst. Chairman, when on June 5, 1939, Gov. Culbert L. Olson of California signed the bill amending the School Code, that state became the first state to honor Susan B. Anthony in its schools. The amendment reads:

"The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

"February 15th of each year, being the birthday anniversary of Susan B. Anthony, is hereby designated and set apart as SUSAN B. ANTHONY DAY.

"All public schools and educational institutions are directed to observe this day with suitable exercises, directing attention to the development of the political and economic status of women in the United States, through the efforts of Susan Anthony."

The California amendment was introduced in the legislature January 24, 1939, by Jeanette E. Daley, Assemblyman from San Diego.

Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction Sam H. Cohn, in a letter to Miss Daley, said:

"In her successful struggle for the emancipation of women, Susan B. Anthony made our approach to true democracy easier. She gave a new meaning to Lincoln's 'I believe this government cannot endure permanently half slave and half free.'

"Only when we have attained mental, social and economic freedom as well as physical freedom may we boast of being a free people. This, I believe, Susan B. Anthony visioned and our youth should be trained to honor her."

SUSAN B. ANTHONY MEMORIAL COMMITTEE REPORT

ETHEL McCLINTOCK ADAMSON, *Chairman*

Never before has it been so appropriate and timely to honor the memory of the great American patriot and democrat, Susan B. Anthony, as now, when the whole world is thinking in terms of democracy. Now is the time to look back to our three women pioneers, Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott, who stand for the rugged principles of righteousness and justice in a democratic form of government.

Throughout the country Miss Anthony's birthday, Sat., Feb. 15th, will be observed. Thirty-two states and territories have officially recognized Susan B. Anthony Day, by Governor's proclamation. In the *Nation's Capital*, in the Crypt of the Capitol, immediately under the great dome surmounted by the statue of Liberty, at 8 P. M., a memorial meeting will be held at which addresses will be given by Senator Joseph E. Guffey, Senator C. Wayland Brooks, Helen Elizabeth Brown, Maud Howell Smith and Mrs. George Mesta. Pinckney Glantzberg, of New York, will preside.

Some of the meetings arranged by branches and other organizations follow: In *Los Angeles*, a dinner at the Hershey Arms Hotel, 2600 Wilshire Boulevard, under the auspices of the B. & P. Legislative Council of California. In *New York City*, a luncheon will be held at the Colony Club under auspices of the National Council of Women, speakers, Linda Littlejohn, Mrs. Lillie Beirne, and Lady Emily Scott; afternoon meeting at the home of Mrs. Eder, 149 East 47th Street under the auspices of the N. Y. City Committee, N. W. P., speakers, Hon. Jane Todd, New York Assemblyman and Inez Haynes Irwin. In *Buffalo*, mass meeting at the new Kleinhaus Music Hall, speaker Mrs. Ruth Bryan Rhode. In *Chicago*, card party at the home of a founder of the N. W. P., Mrs. H. C. Lammers, 5220 Lakewood Ave. In *Boston*, dinner at the Boston University Women's Building, 146 Commonwealth Ave., speakers, Hon. Emma Fall Schofield, Mrs. Howard Le Sourd, Hon. Gail Laughlin and Miss Maude Williams. In *Baltimore*, banquet, speakers Mme. Kameladevi of India and a noted Persian feminist. Radio, newspaper and magazines will add their tributes.

The S. B. A. M. C. is also responsible for the Susan B. Anthony 3 cent stamp, issued by the Post Office Department; the naming of a giant redwood tree in Sequoia National Park; the "outshopping" of a Pullman car named "Susan B. Anthony," and many other evidences of recognition of Miss Anthony's claim to distinction as the emancipator of women, and therefore an exponent of the principles of democracy.

Making The World Safe For Matrimony

By Eleanor T. MacMillan

Of Oregon League of Professional Women

EVERY woman's club should adopt, in spirit at least, the slogan, *Cooperation Accomplishes More Than Competition.* The principal reason why woman's position in the working world has grown precarious is because women themselves do not stand up for women. Woman's industrial status has become particularly endangered by the fact that the unmarried women generally seem obsessed with the idea that married women are holding their jobs, and likewise married women have become envious of the single women's greater business security and independence. If the two groups would but join working hands, they would hold a two-to-one ballot and could soon command the same positions, pay and prestige that men as a masculine fraternity undivided by marital status now control. When women criticise each other, they are simply splitting their rod of united endeavor into a weak weapon of defense.

The problem of the working wife is a particularly poignant one among current dilemmas, a problem that affects all women, married or single, for every woman is a potential wife and every wife is, tragic as it may seem, through death or divorce, potentially single. So the job of making the world safe for matrimony concerns *all* women regardless of present conjugal state.

Requiring as it does the most delicate human adjustments, marriage is in itself a problem and any woman, whether married or not, finds it hard enough to shoulder the work of the world, but when in addition to the economic burden, a wife must bear humiliation and public condemnation for working at all, her condition becomes unendurable.

The solution is not half-marriage "as is," nor companionate marriage as once judicially suggested. The best arrangement would be partnership marriage, for marriage should be a partnership in every phase of human relationship. C. W. A. might also have stood for Cooperative Wedding Act. Give woman the right to marry for love rather than a meal ticket. Then do not let her obedience to one moral law automatically force her to violate the Biblical precept against hiding the light of her talents under a bushel. Let her invest her fine talents as her own conscience dictates, not as some outsider decrees.

After all, our grandmothers dipped candles, spun flax, performed in fact numerous tasks which scientific inventions have taken away. Now must their granddaughters become paralyzed through idleness, stupid through mental inertia, anaemic from lack of nourishment, degenerate into a harem order? Why educate women, if they cannot apply their education? Must cooking be the postgraduate course in Calculus? Work has simply shifted from the home to the factory. Who shall refuse women the right to shift with it?

Woman's place cannot be in the home unless she can afford a home in which to be. Furthermore, since science has taken the things out of the house that kept a married woman occupied, she must necessarily follow her job out into the working world, sharing responsibility with her husband in the firm or factory as she once cooperated in the field and the pioneer kitchen. The argument that men once carried all the economic burden is fallacious, since women formerly shared it through service in the domestic area and now what the wife once saved her husband under the old-fashioned program she should logically help earn for the modernly equipped, modernly heated and lighted abode.

How unfair to call home a man's castle when simultaneously it must be a woman's jail. The woman who enters employment to keep her marriage intact is psychologically more in the home than if she slaved at economic disadvantage in a mortgaged, poorly equipped kitchen. The woman who is willing to work *for* her home is as worthy of consideration as the woman who used to work *in* it. If you insist on sending women back to their houses, put the things back into those houses that kept them occupied; the looms, spinning wheels, canning jars, washboards, mixing bowls, ad infinitum. Give them back all the tasks that are now done by machines. But if you do that, all women will suffer, married or single; all men will suffer, married or single. The need for their salaried labor will disappear over night. When women go back to the rolling pin, husbands will have to go back to the plow.

After all, what is woman's work? "Cooking," you might cite for example. Very well! There are 131,884 men bakers in the United States and only 8,916 women bakers. Those who claim cooking is woman's job in life should logically discharge the men bakers and employ women.

Did the Ten Commandments subdivide human endeavor? Any job that a woman can do well is a woman's job, just as any job a man does well is his. The only criterion should be that of efficiency. That is an ideal for which both men and women should strive. There is no sex to a machine. Why should gender affect its operation?

Furthermore, working women make better wives and if through continued service they maintain contact with the business world, they make better mothers. It takes a modern woman to help solve the problems that confront her modern offspring.

Moreover, every time a woman works even for luxuries, she is creating jobs for those who need necessities. She is often giving domestic employment to a woman beyond industrial age, is frequently supporting dependents and is always creating greater demand for the commodities of life. When a housewife enters industry, she benefits such concerns as laundries, bakeries, restaurants, etc. She is able to maintain the higher standard of living which promotes industry and is not robbing any man or woman of a job any more than if she were forced into the divorce court to eat. In fact, increase the sum total family purchasing power and you increase industrial activity. Prosperity is a continuous cycle of supply and demand. One woman's work gives many women jobs. When a wife brings home the bacon, some other woman must bake the cake.

If you hold women down to a hand-out system or a bread-and-water standard, you are going to have a bread-and-water civilization. That is not progress. That is race suicide. It isn't prosperity to hold wives down to the living wage of their husbands. Wives need a *giving* wage. Dollars are made round to roll and women are more inclined than men to keep them rolling. It is feminine nature. Foster the feminine trait for personal adornment and luxurious environment. That is what keeps the cogwheels of industry turning. Give women an adequate income which they themselves earn and feel free to spend as they desire and that income will immediately be put back into industry and business will be proportionately stimulated.

Home is more than a house. Home is a state of mind. Homekeeping is more important than housekeeping. But the public mind needs housecleaning of any dusty discriminatory ideas. A house divided against itself cannot stand. Single women should recognize the fact that an industrial blow at married women is an indirect blow at themselves. Each group should realize that criticism is a boomerang that must eventually whirl back to wound the critic through lower community morale, greater taxation, less industrial activity, and through the fact that the world thus becomes so unsafe for matrimony that proposals will be reduced to a minimum. Remember that Cupid must eat.

While this seems to stress the right of wives to work, what really should be emphasized is the right of *every* woman to work. There should be absolutely no discrimination either between men and women or between women and women. Married or single, they must all work together or they will all starve separately.

Teacher-Wives Cost Pittsburgh Taxpayers $200,000 Annually

Pittsburgh taxpayers are paying a matrimonial bill of $200,000 a year.

This is the amount of money School Superintendent Ben G. Graham says he could save if he didn't have to keep married women teachers on the payroll.

If he could fire them and hire teachers at the beginner salary scale, it would mean a saving of about one thousand dollars per person, he said today.

Before the present Tenure Law was passed, The Board of Public Education enforced a policy of asking women teachers to turn in their resignations when they married.

Tenure stopped the practice. Today there are more than 200 married women teachers who are adding to the family budget with salaries that keep getting larger due to increment.

Matrimonial protection for women was attacked yesterday by members of the legislative committee of the Pennsylvania School Directors Assn., in Harrisburg.

They adopted a program for presentation to the 1941 Legislature which included an amendment to the Tenure Law permitting school boards to fire married women teachers without formal charges. The Legislature meets next month.

The plan met with disapproval today from John P. Schaefer, member of the Fifth Avenue High School faculty and president of the Pittsburgh Teachers Assn. Said Mr. Schaefer:

"Speaking personally, I would oppose any attempt to change the Tenure Law. I am thoroughly sold on it. The Constitution gives women the same rights as men, and I don't see how they can be discriminated against in such a manner; according to the best legal advice we can obtain, it can't be done."

—From a December issue of the *Pittsburgh Press.*

CORRECTION

A mistake was made in the Jan. 15th issue of Equal Rights, Page 45, "More about the amendment of the Massachusetts Constitution," wherein it is stated that Dr. Everett W. Lord is the President of Boston University. Dr. Lord is Dean of the College of Business Administration of Boston University. Dr. Daniel L. Marsh is president of Boston University. That Dr. Marsh is devoted to democracy is evidenced by his vigorous opposition to the "Teachers' Oath" bills and by his book on "The American Canon." Not enough signatures were secured for the petition and so now a bill "for a legislative amendment to the Constitution to make it lawful for the legislature to enact legislation regulating or prohibiting employment of married women in public service," has been introduced.

National Industrial Council

The Industrial Council jumped into the fight, in 1938, when it became apparent that foes of industrial equality at the Pan American Conference in Lima, Peru, were working to convert the Inter-American Commission of Women into a "welfare organization." The Council enlisted the aid of women's labor organizations and sent cables to delegates at the 8th Pan-American Conference, urging a firm stand against a change of policy and program. Later the Council gave hearty support to the Burke Resolution (S. J. Res. 183, 76th Congress) which sought to keep the Inter-American Commission true to its original ideals of equality.

During the past two years the Council has written to every member of Congress in behalf of the Equal Rights Amendment. It has acted to acquaint the legislators with the industrial equality principle.

Members of the Council have obtained the support of Miss Jane Todd, member of the New York State Assembly, who introduced and fought for a bill to grant to women bindery workers an exemption from the restrictions of the no-night-work law. This bill passed both houses of the Legislature but suffered the same fate as other equality measures, namely, Governor Lehman vetoed it without comment.

The past two years have seen the introduction of many restrictive legislative measures. The Council has opposed all of them as strenuously as it worked for equality measures. Meetings at the Carnegie Hall Studio of Mrs. Lloyd Willims, our Third Vice-Chairman, have been largely attended and articles written by members of the Council have appeared in the "International Bookbinder." The members of the Council assisted at the booth at the New York World's Fair, for one day each week. By letters, telegrams and interviews members of the Council have requested the Resolutions Committees of both Republican and Democratic Parties to endorse the Equal Rights Amendment in their platforms.

And now for a warning. Many of us remember what the first World War and its aftermath meant to women in industry. Women were called to take over jobs of all sorts, 3,000 of us serving as guards, conductorettes, ticket takers, etc. on the Brooklyn Manhattan Transit Railway for instance. After the war women lost most of those jobs and were thrown into the labor market. The result was an avalanche of so-called protective, special labor laws for women only. The tide of such discriminatory laws has continued to rise, and it threatens to grow into a tidal wave, sweeping aside vestiges of industrial equality as the present national emergency becomes more and more serious. Signs of this peril are to be seen on every hand. It behooves not only women in industry but also women in the United States to realize the imminence of the danger which threatens them and to do their utmost to avert it. The only sure way is to get the Equal Rights Amendment into the Constitution. That would be the bulwark against which the tide of industrial discrimination would pound in vain.

MARY A. MURRAY, *Chairman.*

California Assembly Constitutional Amendment No. 13

Introduced by Messrs. Houser, Stream, Kellems, Tenney, Middough, Maloney, Poulson, Crowley, Allen, Gunlock, Cooke, Turner, Lowrey, Poole, Salsman, Cronin, Clarke, McCollister, Andreas, Wollenberg, Lyon, Hawkins, Mrs. Daley and Miss Miller. Jan. 16, 1941.

A resolution to propose to the people of the State of California an amendment to the Constitution of the State, by adding a new section numbered 27 to Art. I thereof, relative to equal rights for men and women.

Resolved by the Assembly, the Senate concurring, That the Legislature of the State of California at its 54th Regular Session commencing on the 6th day of January, 1941, two-thirds of all the members elected to each of the two houses voting therefor, hereby proposes to the people of the State of California that the Constitution of said State be amended by adding to Art. I thereof a new section to be numbered 27, and to read as follows:

Sec. 27. Men and women shall have equal rights throughout the State of California and every place subject to its jurisdiction.

The Legislature shall have power to enforce this section by appropriate legislation.

Extracts From Reports Presented At Convention

Michigan Branch

The Detroit General Council of the National Woman's Party is affiliated with the Detroit General Federation of Women's Clubs. Mrs. McKibbin, Chairman of the Detroit General Council, through this affiliation has greatly increased both the knowledge of and the interest in the equal rights amendment. The Detroit General Council has held its meetings regularly.

In April, 1939, an emergency arose here in Michigan when our House of Representatives passed House Bill 495 by a vote of 54 to 32. The purpose of this bill was to prohibit married women from working for any governmental division within the state. So far as I know this was the only bill, discriminatory to women that was introduced in the 1939 legislature. *It was timely work that killed House Bill* 495 *in the Senate Committee.*

I wish to mention that the organization that was formed out of the emergency committee that fought House Bill 495, whose name is "Congress of Michigan Women" is doing some fine educational work. Many of these women had never heard a fair presentation of the equal rights amendment. I feel they are gradually coming to realize that the amendment is their only salvation to achieving economic security.

On March 25th I journeyed to Grand Rapids to debate the equal rights amendment with a representative of the League of Women Voters at the Y. W. C. A. Next day at a luncheon meeting I spoke to the same women and they decided to form a Branch. Last June our Branch sent a letter and literature to every Michigan delegate and alternate to both Republican and Democratic conventions.

On July 12 the Michigan Branch was very happy to welcome Mrs. Marie Moore Forrest, Chairman of the D. C. Branch. A tea was given in her honor at the Women's City Club, in Detroit. On July 13, Mrs. Forrest and I left for the west. We remained five days in Chicago, attending the National Democratic Convention. Wherever we went Mrs. Forrest lost no opportunity to preach the equal rights gospel. At Des Moines, Mrs. Rosa Cunningham arranged a luncheon for us. On July 23 we drove into Cheyenne, Wyoming, just as the Willkie parade was starting down the street. On July 28 we arrived in Greybull, Wyoming, and were the guests of Lizabeth Wiley, our Wyoming chairman. I left for home the next day.

There have been two important legal decisions in Michigan during the past year regarding women. First the reinstatement of Mrs. Luella Karnatz Nephew, as librarian in Dearborn. Her discharge was due to her getting married. Secondly, on September 6, 1940, the upholding of the so-called "equal pay for equal work" law, which requires Michigan employers to pay women identical wages with men, providing their work is identical, by the Supreme Court of the State of Michigan. This law is Act No. 328, Sec. 556, of the Public Acts of Michigan, passed in 1931.

Last October, our Branch cooperated with two other organizations in compiling a candidate's report for Wayne County. While the report is not complete we did ascertain the opinions of the Congressmen and the legislators in regard to the rights of women quite thoroughly. Judging by the reception this report received I believe it was valuable. 1,800 copies of this report have been distributed. During the past year several members of our branch have interviewed Michigan members of Congress in Washington.

OLIVE E. HURLBURT, *Chairman.*

New Mexico Branch

Our state while the fourth largest in size in the Union has only the same population as Washington, D. C. However, since our last convention we have achieved a new branch at Albuquerque. Miss Scott, Chairman, and Mildred Taylor, as Secretary, undertook to contact by letter the delegates to the two major Political Conventions with good results. We also wish to report that Senator Carl A. Hatch, member of the U. S. Senate Judiciary Committee, and Senator Dennis Chavez are among our faithful friends of many years standing. The Editor of the Woman's Page of the Albuquerque *Tribune* has given good publicity about the monthly meetings. Recent activity in Santa Fe took the form of placing in the Supreme Court Library a copy of a pamphlet giving in detail the various inequalities under different State Laws. For this we are grateful to Miss Scott. I also have the promise of the Albuquerque group to keep its eye on the State Legislature which meets in January, lest any discriminatory legislation develop.

This report proves, I think, that one more State is alert to our needs in regard to legislation both State and National.

A. M. GREENE, *Chairman.*

California Branch

Ten of the twenty California Congressmen have expressed themselves as definitely in favor of the proposed Equal Rights amendment, for submission and ratification.

There are four branches of the N. W. P. in California, organized since 1938, namely, Pasadena, Palo Alto, Bay Region and Laguna Beach. During the past year we have had many meetings.

More than eleven California organizations have endorsed the Equal Rights amendment. One hundred and forty-five clubs of business and professional women, federated with the California Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs, throughout the state, have Equal Rights Chairmen.

Through the combined efforts of many groups, three bills inimical to wage earning women were presented to the 1939 California Legislature: (1) Assembly Bill No. 2784, known as the O'Day Married Persons' bill. This was withdrawn on the floor of the Assembly by the author. (2) Assembly Bill No. 1222, to reduce the hours of females from forty-eight to forty-four per week. This was amended back to the forty-eight hour law now existing. (3) Assembly Bill No. 1248, to increase the minimum wage for women to twenty dollars. This bill was amended to eighteen dollars and finally killed in the Committee of Labor and Capital, after a Hearing by different groups of persons and organizations.

AMY C. RANSOME, *Chairman.*

Ohio Branch

We have a good press both in Columbus and Akron.

There are twenty-six occupations forbidden by law to women and every legislature strives to increase the number. The famous Bar Tenders' bill (fathered by the Bar Tenders' Union) will be presented again for enactment. This bill seeks to prohibit by law women drawing beer, etc., into glasses at restaurants, etc. It is, of course, not necessary to point out that the real object is to deprive women of jobs. So far this legislation has been blocked by the efforts of Helen Robbins Bittermann, Legislative Chairman for Ohio.

The provisions of the Ohio Minimum Wage Act are about to be applied to persons employed in "beauty shoppes" with announced minimums of $13 and $16 a week. Women now enjoying the "benefits" of this act are those employed by hotels, restaurants, laundries and dry cleaning plants.

Other legislation to restrict women's right to contract for her labor will be introduced at the forthcoming session of the Assembly but we are hopeful that the majority can be counted on to defeat such measures. With the increase of employment there is a dimunation in the out-cries against the employment of women, particularly married women, which indicates that if civilization destroys the institution of marriage it will be because it is no longer economically profitable.

Concluson. The situation looks better in Ohio than it has for years. The outlook for the future is more hopeful. MARGARET COCHRANE MOSS, *Chairman.*

Florida Branch

A discussion of antiquated precepts invariably leads to the mention of the married women's laws of Florida. The Supreme Court of Florida has said "A husband by marriage, acquires during coverture the usufruct of all the realty which his wife has in fee simple, fee tail or for life." One of the chief bones of contention among Florida lawyers is the wife's inability to contract. In Florida a wife may not sue or be sued, without her husband's joinder.

The Bar Association of Florida is behind a bill which will do a great deal to equalize the state laws as between men and women.

Senator Claude Pepper of Florida has gone on record as being for the Equal Rights amendment, likewise Representative Pat Cannon. Senator Andrews has said "You may be sure that I certainly shall bear in mind your views should the Equal Rights amendment come up for consideration in the Senate at this Session."

Florida women are still struggling desperately to free themselves from the Common Law of England under which they are classed with idiots and lunatics and minors. For ten years they presented, without avail, bills to the state legislature. The temper of the people is such that it is still a matter for discussion as to whether or not a husband should control (as he now does) the contracts and separate real property of his wife, as well as being her guardian in lawsuits and having the usufruct of her personal property.

Let it be said, however, in defense of Florida, that married women still teach in the schools unhampered and Florida women find fewer of the so-called protective industrial laws to hamper them, than exist in many of the more enlightened states.

Of the twelve bills inimical to women which were introduced in the state legislature in 1939, only one which has been called the "Step-Mother's Bill" passed and became law. Under the Common Law, a widow in Florida is entitled to one-third of all real property left by her deceased husband. The "Step-Mother's Bill" provided: "Any widow whose husband left lineal descendents which were not also her lineal descendents, would be entitled to take not the one-third dower as provided by the ancient law, but that henceforth she must accept a child's part."

A child's part consists of sharing equally with a child, or children, in her husband's estate.

Your chairman has been told that this law has made it difficult for poor men with seven children to obtain new wives. ETHEL ERNEST MURRELL, *Chairman.*

Massachusetts Branch

The Massachusetts Branch meets regularly, keeping alive an active interest in the Woman movement and is ever alert to awaken that interest in others. In our Commonwealth, as in other states there is an attempt made by certain individuals to limit opportunities for women. At present there is being circulated a petition which will amend the Constitution of the Commonwealth so that it will be legal to dismiss married women from State, municipal and county offices. When it is known that one of the signers is a dean of Boston University, College of Business Administration, we can realize how little some men have been improved as a result of their education. We are on guard, and with other organizations stand ready to awaken public opinion to the danger of the trend, which is so apparent everywhere.

During the past two years the Massachusetts Branch has been privileged to bring Laura Berrien, Anita Pollitzer and Rebekah Greathouse to speak before different groups. This educational work must continue until all our people are aware that our boasted democracy is not a democracy at all. Our organization is known to be ready to act in the interest of equality and more and more is being called upon to do something which will benefit women.

It is my conviction that our Congressmen do not know that an injustice exists and that they will be ready to declare themselves in favor of the Equal Rights Amendment whenever Public Opinion demands it. When, I ask you, will the day come when we have aroused sufficient Public Opinion to demand the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment? The answer to that question is up to each and every one.

EDITH BARTLETT CONWAY, *Chairman.*

Delaware Branch

The Delaware Branch of the N. W. P. has not allowed the political parties to go to State or National conventions without making the delegates mindful of the N. W. P.'s determination to get a plank for equal rights. Hence the following resolution had been submitted to both parties:

> WHEREAS, Delaware members of Congress have supported the Equal Rights amendment to the Constitution of the U. S. A. reading "Men and women shall have equal rights throughout the United States and every place subject to its jurisdiction";
>
> *Therefore, be it resolved,* That the Delegates from Delaware be and are hereby instructed to support this resolution at the two National Conventions to be held during 1940.

In so far as we can find out our Delaware delegates have supported Equal Rights in both parties, effectively in the instance of the Republican Convention but unsatisfactorily in the Democratic Convention.

Interested members of both parties feel that our State is in a very good position for the amendment, since no Convention for a number of years has evidenced any opposition to the Equal Rights amendment and has adopted all resolutions favoring it.

The Branch decides that during the next six months it will work, first, to bring the Equal Rights amendment from the Judiciary Committee of the Senate to the floor of Congress, and, second, to serve as a watchdog to see that no legislation inimical to women's rights is introduced or passed by the Legislature.

MARIE T. LOCKWOOD, *Chairman.*

A Feminist Thinks It Over

By ALMA LUTZ

WOMEN AS MAKERS OF HISTORY

THE month of February always turns our thoughts to Susan B. Anthony, and her words come to life for us. In a speech to the newly formed International Council of Women in 1888, she said, "Women will never be properly recorded in history, never be properly painted on canvas until they do the work themselves."

So important did she believe women's historical records were, and so important did she believe women's struggle for suffrage was in the development of democracy, that she insisted on the compiling of the four volumes of the "History of Woman Suffrage." Later she encouraged the writing of her own biography by Ida Husted Harper because it would record not only the events of her own life and work, but would leave the historical record of the work of many women, which, if unpublished, would quickly have been forgotten by future generations.

But women in general have not been as wise as Susan B. Anthony. They have done a truly important work in developing our country and strengthening democracy, but they have been negligent about leaving a printed record. As a result, the impression is more or less general that women do the uninteresting, unimportant work of the world.

Men on the other hand have been good publicity agents for themselves. They are used to thinking of themselves as makers of history, and in their enthusiasm about their own exploits and accomplishments, it is only natural that they should overlook women. But it does not necessarily follow that women must become so mesmerized by men's importance that they overlook themselves.

Women, however, have been prone to overlook themselves, because of tradition and teaching. Tradition has held modesty and unaggressiveness up to women as virtues to be cultivated, and while these qualities have been pretty well broken down outwardly, I believe they still have far too great a hold on the minds of women. Tradition also has taught that women are more desirable when they are not too intellectual. In consequence women have been covering up their intellect and have been appearing ineffectual and mentally dependent upon men when they themselves could be brilliant.

When women first began to write poetry, fiction, history, and serious works, they apologized in their prefaces or had some man apologize for them because they were women. While we no longer apologize outwardly, I believe that as a sex we still lack self-respect, self-esteem, and the proper evaluation of our contribution to the life of the nation and the world.

The teaching of the young has been largely in the hands of women. In this field women have had a great opportunity to call attention to the great women of history, to the contribution that women have made at time of crisis in our nation and in building up the West. But the majority of women teachers have been so impressed with men's scholarship and hence men's interpretation of history that they have failed to think things through. They have not taught boys respect for women's part in world development, nor have they taught girls to appreciate their heritage. Both boys and girls have been taught that men have done everything worth doing.

The time has come to "about face." We need all the inspiration the great women of the past can give us. Let us look up their records; let us preserve the records of our present-day accomplishments. Above all, let us not be afraid to do our own thinking or to appreciate the opinions of women. Women have an important role to play in the days to come.

State's Right To Regulate Male Workers

Albany, Dec. 28—(A. P.).—The State Labor Department's right to regulate men workers as well as women and minors, under the provisions of New York's "Industrial Homework" Act, has been upheld by the State Supreme Court.

Justice William H. Murray, ruling in an action instituted by the First American Natural Ferns Company of New York City, held yesterday that exclusion of male workers would perpetuate "a social and economic evil."

The company contended that Frieda S. Miller, Industrial Commissioner, exceeded the administrative powers delegated by the Legislature in applying the law to adult males, and appealed after the State Board of Standards and Appeals upheld the commissioner. The company conceded the commissioner's right to regulate home industry for women and minors.

"A complete reading of the entire article (Article 13 of the State Labor Law) clearly shows the legislative purpose and intent to regulate and prohibit industrial homework as to all classes of persons engaged in such occupation," Justice Murray said. "The basic expression of the article is a purpose to effect the gradual elimination of industrial homework."

—*New York Times*, Dec. 29, 1940.

Resolution Of Medical Women

WHEREAS the basic law of the land, the Constitution of the United States, fails to grant women citizens the protection accorded to men citizens, thereby permitting discriminations against women physicians, and

WHEREAS there is now pending before the Judiciary Committee of the Senate and the House a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution granting men and women Equal Rights, reading

> "Men and women shall have equal rights throughout the United States and every place subject to its jurisdiction", and

WHEREAS two Congressmen from Illinois, the Hon. Chauncey W. Reed of the 11th District, and the Hon. James M. Barnes, of the 20th, sit on the Judiciary Committee of the House; now, therefore be it

Resolved, That the Medical Women's Club of Chicago, Inc., and the Chicago Council of Medical Women do endorse the proposed Equal Rights Amendment and call upon Representatives Reed and Barnes to expedite its passage through the Judiciary Committee by insisting upon bringing it to a vote and by voting in its favor.

LUCILE H. SNOW,

Executive Board Member of the Medical Women's Club of Chicago, Inc., and the Chicago Council of Medical Women and President of the Chicago Branch No. 2 of the American Medical Women's Association.

October 9, 1940. Sent us by DR. ANNIE R. RANES.

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